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AUTHOR Morgan, Nancy A.
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ABSTRACT

The Internet is a vast computer network that consists of smaller interconnected computer networks. As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new means of communication opens up to educators and students. This digest describes some sample services and resources available to the K-12 community via electronic mail. Information sources covered in this digest are question answering services, including AskERIC; listservs or electronic discussion groups; and Usenet newsgroups, an electronic bulletin board system. (Contains 9 references.) (JLB)

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An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators Part II: Question Answering, Listservs, Discussion Groups

An ERIC Digest

by ERIC/IT

Nancy A. Morgan

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ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology
Syracuse University
4-194 Center for Science & Technology
Syracuse, New York 13244-4100
Phone: (315) 443-3640 • Toll-free: (800) 464-9107
Fax: (315) 443-5448 • Internet: eric@ericir.syr.edu

ERIC DIGEST

May 1994 EDO-IR-94-4

An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators Part II: Question Answering, Listservs, Discussion Groups

by Nancy A. Morgan

The Internet is an international computer network consisting of thousands of smaller interconnected computer networks. As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new and different means of communication opens up to educators and their students. This digest describes some sample services and resources that are available to the K-12 community by electronic mail over the Internet.

Question Answering:

The number of information services that use electronic mail to deliver information is increasing. Services that teachers will find on the Internet include:

AskERIC: AskERIC is a human mediated question answering service for teachers, library media specialists, administrators, and others involved in education. A project of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology at Syracuse University, AskERIC uses the vast resources of the ERIC system and the Internet to answer questions sent by electronic mail. Questioners receive an electronic mail response at no cost within 48 hours. Typical responses include citations from ERIC database searches, full text ERIC Digests, and Internet resources such as listservs and addresses for gopher sites. (Frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other resources developed from questions received at AskERIC are archived at the AskERIC Virtual Library which can be accessed by gophering to askeric@ericir.syr.edu)

✎ Address for electronic mail questions:
askeric@ericir.syr.edu

Ask a Young Scientist: A question answering service for elementary students on scientific topics. Questions are researched and answered by advanced chemistry students. Students are asked to limit their questions to five per message, but are encouraged to post as many questions as they wish.

✎ Address: apscichs@radford.vak12ed.edu

Ask Prof. Math: Answers questions on mathematical content or pedagogy from K-8 students and teachers. (Archives of the questions and responses can be found via anonymous ftp atacs.sbu.edu in the pub/prof.math subdirectory.)

✎ Address: maths@sbu.edu

Online Writing Lab (OWL): Purdue University Writing Lab provides help on correct English usage and writing. Information on how to get free copies of help sheets on topics ranging from resume writing to proper punctuation can be obtained by sending a message to:

✎ Address:owl@sage.cc.purdue.edu.
Subject: owl-request.
Message: Send help.

Tutors will also answer a question by email. Send the question to:

✎ Address: owl@sage.cc.purdue.edu.

Listservs:

Listservs are automated programs that serve as distribution centers for mail messages. Listservs usually focus on a single topic that may be very broad or extremely narrow. People join a listserv by subscribing, and actively participate by sending messages to the listserv, or by simply reading them.

To subscribe, send a message to:
listserv@*node*
Leave the subject line blank.
In the body of the message, write:
subscribe *listservname firstname lastname*

For example, to subscribe to LM_NET:

Address the message to:
listserv@suvm.syr.edu.
Message:
subscribe LM_NET Nancy Morgan

Below are listservs of special interest to K-12 educators:

✍ **NET-HAPPENINGS@is.internic.net**
Internet related news and announcements

✍ **CHILDLIT@rutvm1.rutgers.edu**
Children's literature

✍ **LM_NET@suvm.syr.edu**
School Library/media services

✍ **SUPERK12@suvm.syr.edu**
Supercomputing implementation and utilization in the K-12 environment

✍ **K12ADMIN@suvm.syr.edu**
K-12 educational administration

✍ **MIDDLE-L@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu**
Middle school education

✍ **EDNET@nic.umass.edu**
Internet use in education

- **EDTECH@msu.bitnet**
  Educational technology
- **EDPOLYAN@asuvm.inre.asu.edu**
  Education policy
- **KIDSPHERE-request@vms.cis.pitt.edu**
  Global network (formerly Kidsnet) for K-12 children & teachers
- **KIDLINK@vm1.nodak.edu**
  Kidlink Society runs several listservs in support of a global dialog for 10-15 year old students. Subscribe to KIDLINK listserv to receive information about the other lists.
- **ECENET-L@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu**
  Early childhood education
- **TESLK-12@cunyvm.cuny.edu**
  Teachers of English as a second or foreign language to children
- **ICN-REQUEST@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu**
  International Counselor Network (ICN): counselors or counselor educators
- **BIOPI-L@ksuvm.bitnet**
  Secondary education relating to biology
- **NEWEDU-L@uscvm.bitnet**
  New and improved methods of education
- **TAG-L@avml.nodak.edu**
  Talented and gifted students
- **MUSIC-ED@uminn1.bitnet**
  Music education

Usenet Newsgroups:

Usenet Newsgroups are an electronic bulletin board system, accessible via the Internet, that consists of discussion forums on literally thousands of topics. Users should contact their system operator for instructions. (Student access should be monitored. Many newsgroup topics are not suitable for minors.)

Some of the Usenet Newsgroups are:

- **k12.chat.elementary**
  General discussion for Elementary Students
- **k12.chat.junior**
  General discussion for Junior High Students
- **k12.chat.senior**
  General discussion for Senior High Students
- **k12.chat.teacher**
  General discussion between K-12 Teachers
- **k12.ed.art**
  Arts and Crafts Education
- **k12.ed.business**
  Business Education
- **k12.ed.life-skills**
  Life Skills Education
- **k12.ed.math**
  Mathematics Education
- **k12.ed.music**
  Music and Performing Arts
- **k12.ed.science**
  Science Education
- **k12.ed.soc-studies**
  Social Studies Education
- **k12.ed.tag**
  Talented and Gifted Education
- **k12.ed.tech**
  Technology Education

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Nancy A. Morgan is AskERIC Coordinator for the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology.

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